Jos. M. Freedman, Atty.
Lyceum Theatre Building.
Memphis,
Tenn.

March 20, 1917.

Darling, precious Joe: —

You shall receive this letter on your birthday and Joe, I wish more now than ever, that I could just fly to you, to be with you on this day. Just for this day – at least. Oh! but wouldn't we have a good time! It would be a double holiday – it is my birthday as well as yours – and I should be intent on making you happy – and you should do the same for me – as my birthday present – wouldn't you? It has a pity it is that so many of thousands of miles should be in the way of my expressing my heart

copying it for you to read, also.

The Secret.

I have a secret that I cannot sing,
Because I am afraid the wind might hear,
And stride across the sky to you, and fling
my secret in your ear.

I have a secret that I will not say
Because I am afraid some friend would go
and whisper it to you, my love, one day,
And you would know.

I have a secret that I dare not prize,
Although it laughs away my loneliness
For if you ever looked into my eyes —
Oh! You would guess!

And you might only pity and disdain
The love that has set you far above
The other men who love me all in vain,
Oh love, my love.

wishes and thoughts to you. I do so want to tell it to you — and to you only. Somehow or other I feel as though I shan't be able to write as I feel — yet you must be happy this day, if its within my power. I wish for you, happiness complete, success, health, love, wealth, — every joy imaginable on this and every birthday for scores of years to come. I wish all that one loving and true heart can wish for another — . And I wish I were able to give my darling sweetheart the birth-day kiss that I have to send by mail.

I happened to see this pretty poem, and liked it so much that I am

Isn't it pretty?

Have mailed you a small package, insured and am hoping that it arrives for your birthday. Mailed it yesterday — but I fear if it takes as long to travel South as they are delaying your picture, you'll probably receive it by ~~your~~ next birthday. I purposely delayed posting it until Monday thinking it would arrive first in time, now I am worried.

I am hoping you will have an enjoyable day and remember that I am sending you all my love to help make the day extremely happy.

Lovingly
Frances.